

TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
Thursday April 9, 2015

PRESENT: Scott Jernigan, Charlotte
D. Evans, Charlotte
Walter Horstman, Matthews
Michael Warner, Charlotte
James Hilsman, Charlotte

STAFF: Theron Barrino, Larry Kopf, Pamela White, Debra Franklin, Tom Reynolds, Wanda Braswell, Duretta Weicken

GUEST: Jean Leier, Allyson Colaco, Warren Cooksey, Chris Maloy

Meeting Time 4:00-5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Approval of the March Meeting Summary

Chairman Scott Jernigan called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.,
The March meeting summary was approved as written.

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There was no one from the public at the meeting to give comment.

III. Action Item:

A. Service Change Proposals

Pamela White CATS Planning & Special Operations Manager gave a brief update on the proposed June service changes reminding the committee that the schedule adjustments to improve on-time performance would be for Rts. 2 Ashley Park, 29 UNCC/Southpark, 97 Cornelius Village Rider, 98 McCoy Road Village Rider, 99 Huntersville/CPCC Village Rider, and 211 Hidden Valley and the proposed routing adjustments to improve service to customers for Rts. 7 Beatties Ford, 11 north Tryon, 12 South Boulevard, 16 South Tryon, 22 Graham Street, 60 Tyvola / Southpark and the Gold Rush Red Line.

The committee unanimously approved the proposed June service change as written to present to MTC for approval.

IV. Information Items:

A. I-77 Express Lanes

Warren Cooksey, Dir. Of Outreach, NCDOT presented the committee with an introduction to Express Lanes for the future of I-77 Charlotte. Mr. Cooksey explained the theory & philosophy of express lanes in general, why they exist, how they function and how they interact with transit.

Mike Warner asked if there is documentation that express lanes are moving more cars. Mr. Cooksey stated there is documentation that express lanes move more cars.

James Hillsman asked since the express lanes are free to the buses, will there be more fare charged. Mr. Cooksey stated buses would run free on the express lanes. Larry Kopf stated CATS is not going to charge customers more to ride the buses on express lanes.

Scott Jernigan wondered about carpooling, City, State and County vehicles on the express lanes. Mr. Cooksey stated Individuals will have to have an account with the NC Turnpike Authority, in terms of the HOV and carpooling; they are sighted on a case by case basis, as far as Government vehicles only emergency vehicles will be allowed on the express lanes.

Walter Horstman wondered what a peak-time fare price would be for the express lanes. Mr. Cooksey stated tolls are set by the number of cars using the express lane at peak time.

Ms. Allyson Colaco and Jean Leier of the I-77 Mobility Partners explained the I-77 26 mile project from Mooresville to Charlotte with dedicated lanes that run adjacent to the existing general purpose lanes on I-77. Ms. Colaco explained before each express lane segment, electronic signs will display the fee for the next segment and drivers will decide if they use the express lanes or the general purpose lanes or a combination of both. Ms. Colaco continued explaining the Turnpike Authority quick pass and pay system, benefits of the express lanes, job creation, when construction will start and length of the project as well as maintenance of the corridor.

Mr. Horstman stated if plates on cars are read to determine where the Turnpike Authority sends the bill what if it's a rental car or another state licensed vehicle. Mr. Cooksey explained there is interaction between states with Turnpike Authority's.

Mr. Horstman also wondered why Lake Norman residents are so upset about the express lanes. Jean Leier stated as with any project, there are those in favor of the project and those that are not. The ones that are not in favor speak a lot louder than the ones that are in favor of the project. So it is up to us to educate the public and let them know the importance of the express lanes.

B. Service Guidelines

Pamela White CATS Service Planning Manager explained CATS must update the service guidelines to be responsive to sustaining current service with the projected growth of the Charlotte region, markets and customer expectations. Ms. White continued saying this is a policy that is approved by MTC and affects how CATS develops service. Committee members were asked to review the Guidelines as they will vote to recommend the proposed service guidelines as written to MTC at the May meeting.

C. Riders Code of Conduct

Larry Kopf CATS Transit Operations Manager explained that the Rules & Regulations are up for review every three years. CATS is currently reviewing the summary and making changes to update the Riders Code of Conduct for current conditions and made minor wording and organizational changes to improve clarity as the system ages and grows. The rules and regulations will include the no smoking rule in certain areas recently passed by the Mecklenburg County Board of Health, and CATS will review to incorporate the streetcar which opens in June 2015, as well as new trends. Mr. Kopf asked the committee members to review the Riders Code of Conduct and to vote to recommend, change or not to recommend the changes to MTC for approval at the May 2015 TSAC meeting.

V. Service Issues

There was no service issues reported

VI. Chairman's Report

Scott Jernigan reported that MTC discussed getting the budget finalized. There were presentations on the Operation debt services budget and community investment plan, Gold Rush and the Gateway station.

VII. Manager of Operation Report

Larry Kopf CATS Transit Operations Manager thanked the committee members for their help with the bus announcement survey and reported that 90% of the trips had some of the announcements 64% had all the announcements, 76% of stops where announcements should have been made were automated and 24% there were no announcements made. Operators did not make any of the announcements where the Automated announcement did not play and 10% of announcements play after the bus was past the stop. 90% of the announcements were played in time with the stop and 97% of the announcements were auditable. Tom Reynolds explained that CATS will be doing an education campaign to refresh the operators training.

Mr. Kopf continued saying the streetcar is in testing and is expected to open in June 2015. And that CATS budget will go to MTC for approval this month and then to City council for approval. Also CATS participated in the Stand up for transit day to help with getting legislators to pass a new bill for MAP21 funding for transit.

Next TSAC MEETING: THURSDAY MAY 14, 2015